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thought by Mr. Cook at the time he described the species (Bull. Torrey Club, **28**: 566), a small proportion of the trees being quite columnar from the base up. He further reported that the *Acrocomia* of St. Kitts, collected by Mr. Cowell and himself in 1901, is identical with the Porto Rico species, and that it also occurs on the French Antilles, as illustrated by specimens received from Père Duss. The tree is altogether different from the spindle-shaped *Acrocomia fusiformis* of Cuba, and seems to be more closely related to the Jamaican *A. aculeata.*

The Club adjourned at 5:15 o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

FIELD MEETINGS OF THE CLUB

In a circular recently distributed to members, the Torrey Botanical Club announces an arrangement of the field meetings for the current year so that a part of them will constitute a systematic out-of-door course in forestry. At the regular meeting of the Club, held on Tuesday, May 8, Dr. Grace E. Cooley presented the general subject of forestry in an illustrated lecture. The outlines for the field excursions to be made on Saturday afternoons were prepared by Dr. Cooley in accordance with suggestions made in the lecture. Preceding the field observations, each guide gives a brief presentation of his topic, after which, illustrations of the principles presented are sought in the forest. Six out of ten meetings scheduled have been held this spring. The remainder will be held in the early autumn.

The subject of the first lesson, April 28, was "Characteristics of Trees," with Dr. C. S. Gager as instructor and guide. The prefatory talk was given at the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden, and the field studies were made on the Garden plantations. The individual tree was studied as the unit of the forest. Among the topics considered were: The parts of a tree and their physiological functions; normal shape of stem and crown in forest and in open field, with causes; the relation and development of buds, and their homology and ecology;

kinds of buds ; growth in height and girth ; reproductive capacity, and reproduction by seeds and sprouts ; attainment of economic maturity, and the normal duration of healthy growth. About twenty-five persons were present at this meeting.

The second forestry lesson was given on Saturday, May 5. The party left Chambers Street for Bloomfield, N. J., via Greenwood Lake R. R., at 1:20. From Bloomfield, a walk of about three miles was taken, to Essex, whence the party returned, at 5 o'clock, to New York. The road lay for a considerable distance through heavy forests, chiefly of oak, chestnut and beech. The general subject of the lesson was "Reproduction of Trees." The provisions for securing pollination by insect agency were contrasted with those for wind pollination and the gregarious habits of plants making use of the latter were illustrated. The abundance and fertility of the seed produced by different trees and the relation of these qualities to the size and other characters of the seeds was discussed. Some peculiar methods of seed distribution were referred to. Trees were compared as to the relative frequency with which they produced a crop of seed, and as to the length of time required for the latter to germinate. Propagation by suckers and shoots was discussed as to its causes and occurrence under different conditions and in different countries. Many interesting plants were collected. Thirty-two people were present. Dr. H. H. Rusby was instructor and guide.

May 12, the special subject of the field meeting was "Violets." Twenty-three persons were present, Mr. W. W. Eggleston acting as guide. A couple of hours were spent about the northern end of Van Cortlandt Park near the Yonkers trolley line. Here were found *Viola obliqua*, *V. cucullata*, *V. fimbriatula*, and an abundance of *Viola palmata* and *V. sororia*, with all sorts of intermediates between the last two. Afterwards some of the party returned to Bronx Park and visited the violet bed in the herbaceous grounds of the New York Botanical Garden.

May 19, the third forestry lesson was given on the grounds of the New York Botanical Garden, with Mr. George V. Nash as instructor and guide. The subject was "Characteristics of Trees, illustrated by various species which show strong contrasts." Trees were discussed with special reference to climatic requirements, requirements as to soil and situation, and capacity for bearing shade.

On May 26, the fourth forestry lesson was given at the New York Botanical Garden, with Dr. Arthur Hollick as instructor and guide. The subject for observation and discussion was "Seedling Trees — comparison with mature trees." Attention was first directed to the cotyledons — the primitive leaf-forms — which are rounded or elliptical and entire, and to the fact that the first leaves are nearly always simpler than the later mature leaves; in the white oak and red oak, for example, the leaves are at first entire and later lobed; in the ash, simple at first, later compound; in tulip-tree, orbicular at first, later cuneate or emarginate above and lobed. The bark characters of seedlings and older trees were illustrated. The roughening of the bark with age is usually due to growth in diameter of stem or trunk and the consequent rupture of its outer covering, but may be caused by subsequent secondary growth as is seen, for example, in the corky excrescences of the *Liquidambar*.

The Decoration Day excursion, May 30, was to Hempstead, Long Island. Miss Fanny Mulford and Mrs. N. L. Britton were the guides, and fifteen others were present. The first station visited was a *Sphagnum* bog between the kennels of the Meadow Brook Hunt Club and the estate of Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, where fine specimens of *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Arethusa bulbosa*, *Andromeda Mariana* and *Viola notabilis* were secured. Luncheon was served near Place's Pond where the whorled Pogonia, *Isotria verticillata* was found in abundance and fine specimens of *Arisaema pusillum*. In a white cedar swamp near Merrick, *Dryopteris simulata* and *Woodwardia areolata* and *W. virginica* were found in abundance, also fruiting specimens of *Mnium hornum*.